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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Jaworski et al.  
Serial No. : 09/883,797  
Filed : June 18, 2001  
Title : FATTY ACID ELONGASES

Art Unit : 1638  
Examiner : E. McElwain

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

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JUN 12 2003

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RESPONSE

In response to the Office Action mailed February 27, 2003, please amend the application as follows:

In the Claims:

Please cancel claims 11-13, 16, 17, 31, 32, 38, and 39 without prejudice to continued prosecution. Please add new claims 41-51. Please replace claims 33 and 40 with amended claims 33 and 40 shown below. For convenience, a full set of pending claims follows.

33. (Amended) A transgenic plant containing a nucleic acid construct comprising a polynucleotide that encodes a polypeptide having at least 80% sequence identity to SEQ ID NO:2, wherein said polypeptide possesses  $\beta$ -ketoacyl synthase activity.

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- 34. The plant of claim 33, wherein expression of said nucleic acid is tissue-specific.
  - 35. The plant of claim 34, wherein said expression is epidermal cell-specific expression.
  - 36. The plant of claim 34, wherein said expression is seed-specific expression.
  - 37. The plant of claim 33, wherein said plant has altered levels of very long chain fatty acids in seeds compared to the levels in a plant lacking expression of said nucleic acid.

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING BY FIRST CLASS MAIL

I hereby certify under 37 CFR §1.8(a) that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail with sufficient postage on the date indicated below and is addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231.

June 5, 2003

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